

MCOLES



Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards

September 2001

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MCOLES and MJTC to Consolidate

On August 30, 2001, Governor Engler issued an Executive Order consolidating the operations of the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) and the Michigan Justice Training Commission (MJTC) under a single commission. A newly appointed commission, consisting of 15 members that represent the various interests of criminal justice, will be appointed this fall. The new commission will retain the MCOLES name and logo. Services formerly provided by the two commissions will continue uninterrupted.

The union of the two commissions marks the end of a 20-year era wherein two state commissions provided funding and services to promote standards and training for law enforcement and other criminal justice entities. The two-commission configuration was instrumental in the proliferation of criminal justice training that occurred in the 1980s and 1990s, yet the consolidation initiative was seen as a necessity in order to unite standard setting responsibilities with funding capabilities on a common mission within a single organization.

Historically, the two commissions have shared often intersecting responsibilities, yet with independent organizational missions and goals, they did not always conduct daily business under a common strategy for the development of law enforcement and criminal justice. The

consolidation proposal emerged amid concerns that the organizational separation of MCOLES and MJTC was compromising state level leadership.

At the request of the Governor, the two commissions convened a joint work group last May and June to explore how best to unify their operations. A professional facilitator was brought in to help participants through some of the discussions.

The immediate impact of the consolidation on MCOLES services or on recipients of Public Act 302 grants or the law enforcement distribution will be transparent.

Notwithstanding some difficult concerns, the participants ultimately agreed on a proposal to merge the two commissions.

The proposal, now reflected in the Governor's Executive Order, creates a larger commission with responsibilities beyond law enforcement. The new commission will represent the other components of the criminal justice system, formerly represented on MJTC. These include prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys, and additional employee organization representation. The newly formed commission will be composed of the following appointees:

- 1) The Attorney General, or the designated representative of the Attorney General;
- 2) The Director of the Department of State Police, or the Director's designated representative who is a Michigan State Police Officer;
- 3) The Chief of the Police Department located in a city with a population of more than 750,000, or the Chief's designated representative who is a Command Officer with that Department; and
- 4) Twelve (12) members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, as follows:
 - a) Three (3) individuals selected from a list of nine (9) active voting members of and submitted by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police or its successor organization;
 - b) Three (3) individuals selected from a list of nine (9) elected sheriffs submitted by the Michigan Sheriffs' Association or its successor organization;
 - c) One (1) individual selected from a list of three (3) individuals submitted by the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan or its successor organization;
 - d) One (1) individual selected from a list of three (3) individuals submitted by the Criminal Defense Attorneys

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A Message From The Executive Director



I'd like to take a moment to review several important issues that have been on the MCOLES radar screen this summer. On July 1, Public Act 381 was enacted, dramatically changing the privilege of Michigan citizens to carry concealed pistols. The civilian pistol safety training requirements of this law stipulates that training programs must be certified by "this state" or by "a national or state firearms training organization." MCOLES has been designated as "this state." In anticipation of our responsibilities under this statute, MCOLES convened a curriculum development panel last spring. The work of this group was adopted at a Commission meeting on July

24. Law enforcement agencies or MCOLES approved training providers wishing to provide this civilian training program may obtain the required program and instructor certification applications at our web site www.mcoles.org. Remember that MCOLES program certifications under Public Act 381 may only be used by law enforcement agencies and MCOLES approved training providers, hence MCOLES instructor certifications may not be used to conduct private training. Private training programs and their instructors must be certified by one of the other certifying authorities.

Last Fall, we conducted a public hearing to examine the issues surrounding agencies that provide law enforcement services through authority derived from an "other organization." This practice has evolved over the years often to meet the needs of a specialized environment such as providing police services for an educational complex, a hospital, or a transportation facility. Last spring, I was directed to request an opinion of the Michigan Attorney General to clarify whether MCOLES could legitimately issue law enforcement certification to officers empowered by so-called "other organizations." The question posed to the Attorney General is, *"Does the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards have the authority to grant certification to individuals who are employed by either a private or public organization that does not have independent legislative authorization to operate a law enforcement agency?"* An opinion is expected soon. We will keep you posted.

As of this writing, 347 revocation complaints have been filed with MCOLES. Each of these cases involves a law enforcement officer who, reportedly, has been convicted of a felony crime or who is accused of committing fraud or of making materially false statements in the process of applying for law enforcement certification. A total of 108 cases have now reached final disposition. Among the completed cases, 43 have resulted in lifetime revocation of law enforcement certification and an additional 14 have received less-than-lifetime revocation. Action in approximately 23 other cases has prevented initial activation of law enforcement certification. Many of these cases are the result of advance notifications from law enforcement agencies and training providers who are now taking an active role in making the application of this statute a success. It is also important to note that in several instances, our investigations cleared the officers of the allegations against them.

A related, yet often overlooked, MCOLES responsibility involves proper use of the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN). State level sanctions for misconduct include suspension from the use of LEIN and felony prosecution (for second offenses). A felony conviction under this provision would require revocation of law enforcement certification. Please remind your officers to only use LEIN services for legitimate purposes.

Don't forget to continue checking our web site, www.mcoles.org, for access to many of our resources and for breaking news. And, please check the schedule of Commission Meetings included in this newsletter, as you are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Sincerely,

R.W. Bruch Jr.

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- of Michigan or its successor organization;
- e) One (1) individual selected from a list of three (3) individuals submitted by the Michigan State Police Troopers Association, or its successor organization;
- f) One (1) individual selected from a list of three (3) individuals submitted by the Michigan Chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police, or its successor organization;
- g) One (1) individual selected from a list of three (3) individuals submitted by the Police Officers Association of Michigan, or its successor organization;
- h) One (1) individual selected from a list of three (3) individuals submitted by a Police Association representing officers employed by one Police Agency employing more than 15% of the Police Officers in this State, or its successor organizations.

The immediate impact of the consolidation on MCOLES services and recipients of Public Act 302 grants, or the law enforcement distribution, will be transparent. Services, grant cycles, and distribution cycles will be uninterrupted. The long-range impact of the consolidation promises to produce positive changes, especially for law enforcement training. The Governor's Executive Order specifically requires that MCOLES, in addition to exercising the statutory authority, powers, duties, functions and responsibilities transferred to it by the Order, focus its activities on the accomplishment of the following objectives:

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MCOLCS & MJTC to Consolidate

- Increasing the professionalism of Michigan law enforcement organizations;
- Increasing the number of law enforcement organizations that offer formal in-service training;
- Increasing the number of law enforcement officers who receive formal in-service training in Michigan;
- Instituting law enforcement in-service training standards applicable to all law enforcement in-service training in Michigan;
- Implementing a web-based information system that will allow the Commission to accomplish its goals and communicate with Michigan Law enforcement organizations in a more efficient manner, and;
- Ensuring that grants awarded by the Commission to Michigan law enforcement organizations advance efforts to achieve the objectives listed above.

Ultimately, a well-organized unified commission will be able to better meet the challenges that the new millennium will bring.

Spring 2001 Law Enforcement Distribution Payments Released

The Spring 2001 LED payments have been released. Every eligible agency employing three or more officers will receive the per-capita payment of \$107.65 for each eligible, full-time equated MCOLCS certified officer. For those agencies employing fewer than three officers, the minimum payment of \$250 has been issued.

As many of you may have discovered, the distribution report (dated 6/12/2001), does not contain the correct payment amounts. A *revised* report was prepared and mailed out the week of June 25, 2001. If you

have any questions regarding the distribution, please contact staff at 517-322-5615.

National Sheriff's Association 2001 Annual Conference

The Michigan Justice Training Commission routinely issues a "blanket" approval for NSA conferences when the conference agenda contains a minimum of 6 hours of qualifying training within any 24-hour period. The agenda for the NSA Conference (June 22-27, 2001, at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott Marina Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida) has been reviewed for compliance with this mandate. Two days satisfy the 6:24 mandate. Therefore eligible entities may utilize justice training LED funds for two days' attendance at this conference. Approval is limited to travel costs to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, two days per diem at the conference, and travel costs for the return trip.

2001 COMMISSION MEETINGS

September 13, 2001 (MJTC Meeting).....Lansing
(Location - Michigan State Police Academy)

October 11, 2001.....Cadillac
(Combined MCOLCS/MJTC Meeting -Hosted by
Dir. Robert Denslow and the Northern Michigan Chiefs)

November 8, 2001.....Lansing
First meeting of new 15 member Commission
(Location - Michigan State Police Academy)

December 13, 2001.....Lansing
(Location - Michigan State Police Academy)

Host Special Use Request Approval Announced

East Lansing Police Department is hosting **Colt Manufacturing Company, Inc.** to present the **Colt Armorer Course** (MJTC 2706) on October 16-18, 2001. The cost is \$375 per trainee. For more information, contact Chief Louis Muhn at (517) 351-4220.

Oakland County Sheriff Department is hosting **Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates, Inc.** to present **Field Interviewing** (MJTC 2780) on September 26, 2001. Cost is \$129 per person. For more information, please

contact Sgt. Kenneth Hurst at (248) 858-4995.

Oakland County Sheriff Department is hosting **Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates, Inc.** to present **Ried Method of Criminal Interview and Interrogation** (MJTC 2769) on September 12-14, 2001. Cost is \$395 per person. For more information, please contact Sgt. Kenneth Hurst at (248) 858-4995.

South Haven Police Dept. is hosting **RAR Com-**

munications to present **Police Media Relations Training** (MJTC 2770) on October 11-12, 2001. Cost is \$295 per person. For more information, please contact D/Chief Ruben Soto at (616) 639-1209.

The above host approvals, as with all training programs may only be used for MCOLES certified officers. MJTC approval does not imply that the course is approved for MCOLES credit. Please verify with the host of the program whether the MCOLES approval has been granted.

In-Service Course Registry Announces In-Service Training Programs on the MCOLES Web Site

The Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards is accepting any training fliers and announcements of upcoming in-service criminal justice training offered in Michigan. Announcements and registration forms are routinely posted on the MCOLES web site (www.mcoles.org). If you're aware of any training and would like to submit a flier or announcement, please e-mail them to Diane Horwath at horwathd@state.mi.us. If you have any questions, please contact Diane at 517-322-1384.

State of Michigan
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